

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a first paper ejection roller which is provided at a terminal end section of a recording media transport path and which is rotatable in forward and reverse directions;

a second paper ejection roller which is provided such that it is urged into contact with the first paper ejection roller and which rotates in the forward direction relative to the first paper ejection roller to switch back a recording medium which has been printed on one side thereof in a double side printing mode in cooperation with the first paper ejection roller;

a third paper ejection roller which is provided in a position opposite to the second paper ejection roller, with the first paper ejection roller interposed between them, such that it is urged into contact with the first paper ejection roller and which rotates in the forward direction relative to the first paper ejection roller to eject a recording medium on which printing has been completed in the double side printing mode onto an ejected paper tray in cooperation with the first paper ejection roller; and

a stopper for preventing a recording medium which has been ejected onto the ejected paper tray from being caught between the first paper ejection roller and the second paper ejection roller and between the first paper ejection roller and the third paper ejection roller.

2. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the stopper is mounted on a shaft of the first paper ejection roller, and a section of the stopper in a direction orthogonal to the axial direction of the shaft has a shape that diverges in the direction in which the recording medium is ejected.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an ejected paper section to which recording paper on which printing has been
completed is ejected;
a pair of paper ejection rollers, rotatable in forward and reverse directions, for
transporting the recording paper in an ejecting direction by rotating in the forward
direction and transporting the recording paper in a direction opposite to the ejecting
direction by rotating in the reverse direction; and
a stopper for preventing the recording paper ejected to the ejected paper section
from contacting the pair of paper ejection rollers;

~~An image forming apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the stopper is~~
provided on at least part of the pair of paper ejection rollers so as to be rotatable
relative to the paper ejection rollers.

5. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an ejected paper section to which recording paper on which printing has been completed is ejected;

a pair of paper ejection rollers, rotatable in forward and reverse directions, for transporting the recording paper in an ejecting direction by rotating in the forward direction and transporting the recording paper in a direction opposite to the ejecting direction by rotating in the reverse direction; and

a stopper for preventing the recording paper ejected to the ejected paper section from contacting the pair of paper ejection rollers;

~~An image forming apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the stopper has a rotation restraining portion for restraining the stopper from rotating at a predetermined angle or more relative to the paper ejection rollers.~~

6. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the recording paper is allowed to be ejected to the ejected paper section by the rotation of the stopper relative to the paper ejection rollers.

7. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the stopper is provided on at least part of the pair of paper ejection rollers such that it can be rotated relative to the paper ejection rollers.

8. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an ejected paper section to which recording paper on which printing has been

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completed is ejected;

_____ a pair of paper ejection rollers, rotatable in forward and reverse directions, for transporting the recording paper in an ejecting direction by rotating in the forward direction and transporting the recording paper in a direction opposite to the ejecting direction by rotating in the reverse direction; and

_____ a stopper for preventing the recording paper ejected to the ejected paper section from contacting the pair of paper ejection rollers;

~~An image forming apparatus according to Claim 3,~~ wherein a plurality of the stoppers are provided coaxially with the paper ejection rollers.

9. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein a plurality of the stoppers are provided coaxially with the paper ejection rollers.

10. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein a plurality of the stoppers are provided coaxially with the paper ejection rollers.

11. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein a plurality of the stoppers are provided coaxially with the paper ejection rollers.

12. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein a plurality of the stoppers are provided coaxially with the paper ejection rollers.

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13. (Original) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an ejected paper section to which recording paper on which printing has been completed is ejected;

a first pair of transport rollers, rotatable in forward and reverse rotations, for transporting the recording paper after printing on a top side thereof in the ejecting direction of the recording paper by rotating in the forward direction, and transporting the recording paper after printing on the top side thereof in the direction opposite to the ejecting direction by rotating in the reverse direction;

a second pair of transport rollers, provided in the vicinity of the ejected paper section, for ejecting the recording paper after printing on both sides thereof to the ejected paper section by the forward rotation;

a guide member for switching transportation of the recording paper to the first pair of transport rollers and transportation of the same to the second pair of transport rollers; and

a stopper for preventing the recording paper ejected to the ejected paper section from contacting at least either of the first pair of transport rollers and the second pair of transport rollers.

14. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the stopper is provided on at least part of the first and second pairs of transport rollers so as to be rotatable relative to the transport rollers.

15. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the stopper has a rotation restraining portion for restraining the stopper from rotating at a predetermined angle or more relative to the transport roller on which the stopper is provided.

16. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the recording paper is allowed to be ejected to the ejected paper section by the rotation of the stopper relative to the transport roller on which the stopper is provided.

17. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein the recording paper is allowed to be ejected to the ejected paper section by the rotation of the stopper relative to the transport roller on which the stopper is provided.

18. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein a plurality of the stoppers are provided coaxially with the transport rollers.

19. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein a plurality of the stoppers are provided coaxially with the transport rollers.

20. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein a plurality of the stoppers are provided coaxially with the transport rollers.